

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18628 301626Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 OPR-02 /190 W

----- 126868

R 300839Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8628

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 18628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICIALS "MEET THE PEOPLE"

1. FINANCE MINISTER BOONMA AND BANK OF THAILAND GOVERNOR BISUDHI, THAILAND'S TWO LEADING GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICIALS, APPEARED ON THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT "MEET THE PEOPLE" SESSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. ALTHOUGH FINANCIAL MATTERS WERE SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO END THE WAVE OF STRIKES THAT NOW PLAGUES THE COUNTRY (SEPARATELY REPORTED), THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS MADE ON THE COUNTRY'S FISCAL NEEDS. THE FINANCE MINISTER SAID THERE WOULD NEED TO BE TAX INCREASES TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH MANY OF ITS PRESSING PROBLEMS. HE SINGLED OUT PAY INCREASES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS TWO AREAS WHERE INCREASING SPENDING WAS NECESSARY. BOONMA ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME UNPOPULAR DECISIONS AND ASK FOR MORE SACRIFICES FROM THE PEOPLE. ONE BANGKOK NEWSPAPER INTERPRETED THIS STATEMENT AS A CHALLENGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO ACT IN MORE THAN A CARETAKER CAPACITY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 18628 301626Z

2. GOVERNOR BISUDHI TOUCHED ON THAILAND'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE

RESERVE POSITION, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A REDUCTION OF THE 7S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND.

3. COMMENT: BOONMA AGAIN GAVE EVIDENCE THAT IN HIS OPINION THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE ACTION IN PROBLEM AREAS EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT EXTEND BEYOND THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR. GOVERNOR BISUDHI'S MENTION OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BENEFITS THAILAND DERIVES FROM THE 7S. MILITARY PRESENCE IS A REMINDER OF THE POSITIVE WORTH OF THE BASES TO THE THAI ECONOMY AND THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION THAT A PRECIPITOUS WITHDRAWAL WOULD CAUSE. BISUDHI'S COMMENT ALSO BRINGS INTO SHARP FOCUS THE NEED FOR THAILAND TO FIND ADDITIONAL MEANS FOR OBTAINING FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

KINTNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, TAX CHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BANGKO18628  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973113/aaaaaceu.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICIALS "MEET THE PEOPLE"  
**TAGS:** EFIN, TH, (BOONMA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005